

HALF MILE OF SPLENDID DOCKS

City to Purchase Property
Between Ash and
Nicholson Streets.

BEAUTIFUL PARK ON RIVER FRONT

James River Improvement Com-
mittee Recommends Plan to
Raise Lester Street Fif-
teen Feet Out of
the Reach of
Freshets.

No greater movement for the public
good has been launched in many years
than was made yesterday afternoon by
the James River Improvement Com-
mittee, when it unanimously passed a resolu-
tion recommending that the City Council
authorize the City Engineer to acquire
by purchase, condemnation proceedings or
otherwise, the property fronting on James
River, and running back between Ash
and Nicholson Streets, to the Chesapeake
and Ohio Viaduct.

The property fronts something like
220 feet on the river, extending from
the wharves of the Old Dominion Steam-
ship Company eastward to the water-
front owned by the Davenport estate.
It is proposed to fill the immense "basin"
included within the area, and to make
the property a beautiful public park
running down to the water-front,
where splendid docks will be constructed.

To Raise Street.
Through the center of the property
now runs Rocketts, or Lester Street,
which during high water and freshets
is so flooded that the street railway cars
are unable to be operated, cutting off
from Richmond the thriving section of
Fulton.

The plan proposed will call for raising
Lester Street some fifteen feet, as
well as the adjoining property, so that
the entire section will be out of reach of
high water. It is also proposed to
straighten the curve in Lester Street, so
that the avenue will run on the bank
overlooking the river.

Another improvement that will follow
the acquisition of the property will be
the straightening of Gillis Creek, which
now forms a semi-circle after leaving
the City Gas Works. The creek will
be turned from its present bed, and will
be made to flow into the river at a
point some 400 feet lower.

On the river front will be constructed
a line of docks nearly half a mile in
length, and above the reach of high
water. There will be erected a stone re-
taining wall, and the present unsightly
indenture of the banks will be changed
into a graceful curve.

Important Work.
This is the plan that has been mapped
out by the James River Improvement
Committee, and which will doubtless re-
ceive the hearty approval of the mem-
bers of the Council and the Aldermen,
for not only will it appeal to those who
desire the development of city parks and
pleasure grounds, but it will have the
added weight of being a wonderfully
economic move, really saving the city
many thousands of dollars.

Mr. O. H. Funsten, chairman of the
committee, which formulated the
report, has been working for years to ac-
complish this scheme, for he was im-
pressed with the fact that the city was
spending immense sums annually to im-
prove the property of individuals on the
water-front, instead of taking advantage
of the extended front for its own interest.

Engaged in dredging the river are im-
mense machines which pump through
great pipes sand and clay from the bed
of the stream to the banks below Lester
Street. Hundreds of thousands of cubic
yards of "fill" have been made within
the last few years, great basins and dikes
have been changed into stretches and the
entire section along the river front has
been raised. This work, while costing
the city great sums of money, has not
only kept the river navigable, but has
made the formerly almost worthless prop-
erty on Lester Street very valuable. In-
dividuals have received the profit which
should by right accrue to the city, and
it is now proposed that the property be-
tween Ash and Nicholson Streets, be re-
turned to the city, and that the city
convert it into a great public pleasure
ground.

It is explained that it will be necessary
for the city to acquire property in the
neighborhood upon which to deposit the
sand from the river bottom, and it is
pointed out that even if this property
were sold afterwards, it would necessarily
have increased in value, and would be a
valuable asset. The plan has the warm
approval of Colonel Cutshaw, the City
Engineer, and of Mr. Beck, his assistant.

Meeting on Tug.
On the city tug Thomas A. Cunningham
yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock,
the James River Improvement Com-
mittee held a most important meeting. There
were present Mr. W. W. Morton,
chairman, and Messrs. O. H. Funsten,
George Currie, Umbreit and Peters, as well
as Colonel Cutshaw, City Engineer; Mr.
Beck, assistant engineer, and Clerk
Ruske to the committee.

Mr. Funsten read his report, which
called for the purchase of the property
fronting on James River between Ash
and Nicholson Streets. The report was
unanimously adopted.

Mr. Funsten moved to lease
for twelve months the property
known as "Sloan's Basin," upon
which to dump the deposits dredged from
the river, with the understanding that
the sand so deposited remained the
property of the city.

Colonel Cutshaw offered a report, show-
ing the sums appropriated and expended
on the river since 1903, which was ac-
cepted and filed. He also stated that
during the month of October, 2,400 cubic
yards of earth had been dredged, and
during November, 2,871 cubic yards, at a
cost of \$1,000.

GILLETTE GETS ELECTRIC CHAIR

Jury Brings in Verdict of
Murder in First
Degree.

MURDERED GRACE BROWN, SAYS JURY

One Held Out That She Was a
Suicide Until After Five Ballots
Had Been Taken—Prisoner
Was Very Nervous
and Feared
Violence.

HERKIMER, N. Y., December 4.—The
jury in the trial of Chester E. Gillette
for the murder of his sweetheart, Grace
Brown, at Big Moose Lake, on July 11th
last, to-night returned a verdict of guilty
in the first degree.

Sentence will be pronounced Thursday
morning, to which time court adjourned.
After the jury had reported, Justice Sen-
ator Mills, Gillette's counsel, before ad-
journment, announced that when court re-
convened Thursday he would move to
have the verdict set aside. The jury
which had deliberated for five hours sent
word at 11 o'clock that a verdict had
been reached. Later they filed into the
court-room, and at 11:15 o'clock an officer
who had been sent for Gillette returned
with the prisoner.

Fate and a trifle nervous, apparently,
Gillette faced the jury, and when Marshal
Hatch, the foreman, declared that a ver-
dict of guilty in the first degree had been
found, the youthful prisoner, gave no
sign of emotion. When his counsel had
announced his purpose of making a formal
motion that the verdict be set aside and
the judge was dismissing the jury, Gillette
bent over a nearby table, and
picking up a pencil, wrote something upon
a sheet of paper. He then folded the
paper carefully and placed it in his pocket.
Immediately afterwards, he was taken
from the court-room back to his cell in
the jail.

One for Acquittal.
It was learned that the jury had some
difficulty in reaching an agreement, and
six ballots were taken before the twelve
men agreed. Up to that time, the jury
had stood eleven for conviction and one
for acquittal.

The under-sheriff took Gillette back to
jail, and as soon as he entered his cell
he prepared hurriedly for bed.

"The reporters want to see me," he
said to Sheriff Edwards, "tell them I
have nothing to say, only I did not
expect that verdict."

The jury, it was stated, would have
reached its verdict quickly had it not
been for one juror, who thought Grace
Brown was a suicide. The other eleven
argued against the theory he had formed,
and ballot after ballot was taken, until
finally, on the sixth ballot, the jury
agreed.

The case was given to the jury at 7:30
o'clock to-night, after Judge Devendorf
had occupied an hour and fifteen minutes
in his charge.

The day's session, until the judge's
charge, had been taken up by District
Attorney Ward, who described the friend-
ship of Gillette and Grace Brown, and
their companionship up to the time of
the trial the youthful prisoner broke down
as he was mercilessly scored by the prose-
cutor.

For some time he glared defiantly at
the district attorney, but when the latter
read abstracts from the letters sent
Gillette by his sweetheart, the prisoner
burst into tears, and at times through-
out the remainder of the session, sobbed
bitterly. When the jury went to
its room and Gillette was taken back to his
cell, he asked the deputy: "Are the
doors all locked, sheriff?"

Apparently he feared violence, but
there was no evidence of any intention of
violence on the part of the big crowd that
swarmed the court-room. After supper
the court-room filled quickly, and many
remained long, hoping to witness the re-
turn of the jury.

In his charge Judge Devendorf said:
"To all concerned, this is a case of
great importance. You have no right to
be influenced or controlled by anything."
(Continued on Tenth Page.)

NEGRO MOB TRIES TO LYNCH WHITE MAN

White Man Shot Negro Because
Latter Owed Him One Dollar.
Jail Stormed.

MILFORD, OHIO, December 4.—Prod
Bennett, a negro, was shot and fatally
wounded by William Redman, white, on
a farm near Terrace Park, Monday. Red-
man admits the shooting and says the
reason is the fact that Bennett owed
him a dollar. The negroes of the vicinity
were greatly enraged, and a posse, head-
ed by the father of the man who was
shot, searched the town for Redman, and
afterwards caused considerable excite-
ment by attempting to force their way
into Milford jail, where Redman had
been taken for safe-keeping.

KNOWS NOTHING OF
SALE TO VANDERBILTS
CINCINNATI, OHIO, December 4.—M.
E. Ingalls said to-night that he knew
nothing about the alleged sale of the
Pennsylvania holdings in the Chesapeake
and Ohio to the Vanderbilts. He said
none of the other Big Four officials
would be interviewed on the subject, nor
would Mr. Ingalls express himself upon
the rumor further than to say that he
had no knowledge of the sale.

CHESTER E. GILLETTE, GRACE BROWN AND BIG MOOSE LAKE WHERE GIRL WAS MURDERED



SURRY COURT HOUSE BURNS

Excellent Building, With Clerk's
Office and Equipment,
Destroyed.

SURRY, VA., December 4.—The court-
house building at this place was burned
this morning. The fire was discovered at
4 o'clock bursting from windows and
doors by a merchant who was awakened
by the light.

The building was of modern construc-
tion, having been built in 1895 by a con-
tractor named Smith, of Richmond, who
built the actual construction to E. E.
Tatterson, of Norfolk.

The lower floor was used for offices.
The vault or county clerk's office was on
this floor, and the opinion of all is that
the records were intact. It will be
impossible to know for some time as to
whether it will be possible to open it to-day,
owing to the heat.

The attorney for the Commonwealth
had his office next the vault on the sam-
e floor, and next to that was the county
treasurer's office; across the hall was
the writing-room of the county clerk,
sheriff's office and room for the board
of supervisors to meet in. The
upstairs was the courtroom and jury
rooms and judge's consultation-room.

Nothing of great im-
portance. Nothing was saved, as it was
not considered possible by any one to
get in, as your correspondent was on
among the earliest arrivals on the scene.

Some of the lower windows
were knocked in and an attempt made to
enter, but the volunteer firemen were driven
back, and their efforts were confined to
the saving of the nearby buildings. The
jail caught fire, but was promptly put
out, as did also a residence, but no damage
was done.

The courthouse building and fixtures
cost about \$12,000, and there was \$3,000
insurance.

The old building, which was torn down
and the new one erected on its site, was
built in 1896.

The board of supervisors met to-day in
regular session, and will no doubt take
some steps toward repairing the loss at
an early date.

It is believed that the lower walls will
be in a condition to be used again, as only
the upper portion seems to be cracked.
The building was of brick.

GROVER FORD UNDER ARREST

Young Rockbridge Man Who
Killed Sweetheart and Rival
in Custody.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., December 4.—
When the family of William Hawk, a
farmer, arrived home from this city re-
cently, they were astonished to hear some-
one playing the organ in the parlor. The
player proved to be a full-grown man and
a stranger. When they approached, the
unknown could give no satisfactory ac-
count of himself, and showed no disposi-
tion to leave. Hawk sent for the trustee
of the county farm, and the latter sent
the stranger to the infirmary to await
identification. His clothing was
marked "G. Ford." The young man said
his first name was Charles, but he did
not know his last name. Once, he said,
it was Ferguson, and then he said he
was not certain.

Superintendent Mills is receiving let-
ters and callers, but so far the efforts to
establish his identity have failed.

Letters were received from Indiana-
polis, Muncie, Lapel, Gaston, Ind. Mont-
peller and Decatur to-day, all inquiring
for lost sons, fathers or husbands.

Killed His Sweetheart.
The most important case came to-day from
Justice H. L. Lester, of Denmark, Va.,
saying Grover Ford was indicted there
for the murder of Charles Cash and Mrs.
Lydia Esterline on June 25, 1896. He
gave the description: "White man, about
twenty years of age, weighs 125 to 135
pounds, light hair and eyes, large mouth and
thick lips, smooth face, about five feet
six or seven inches, has scar in center
of forehead from kick of a horse and
scar over right ear." The young man
fits the description in every detail, in-
cluding scars and resembles a picture
that accompanied the letter.

A circular offering \$500 reward for the
arrest of Grover Ford, and signed by T.
A. Sterrett, sheriff of Rockbridge county,
Va., was shown to the youth. He read it
in a distinct voice, and handed it back
to Mills with the statement that that
officer might give him some information
about it.

A BRUTAL MURDER IN SUSSEX COUNTY SUNDAY

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
SUSSEX, C. H., VA., December 4.—An-
other murder occurred in Sussex county
Sunday morning, while William Borge
and Goodwyn Booth, brothers-in-law,
were on their way home, near Stony
Creek, they became engaged in a quarrel,
and Borge shot Booth with a double-
barrel shotgun, killing him almost in-
stantly. The prisoner was brought here
to-day and lodged in jail to await the
action of the grand jury.

Whiskey is said to have been the cause
of the trouble.

TWICE DEAD, SO SAY PHYSICIANS

Remarkable Case of Clinging to
Dear Life Comes to Light
in Chicago.

CHICAGO, ILL., December 4.—Victor
Ulrich died to-day, surviving twelve hours
after he had been pronounced dead by the
physician.

Despite the assertion of a physician
and two assistants yesterday that he was
"dead," Ulrich drank a glass of water
and then was taken to Mercy Hospital,
where it was first believed he had a
"fighting chance" for life. He shot him-
self in the right temple, the bullet im-
bedding itself in the wall of the room,
after piercing his skull. He was found
on the floor of his bedroom, a revolver
lying close beside him.

Despondent because of a love affair,
Ulrich turned from his work at a brewery,
and after barring the door, attempted to
end his life. The shot was heard by Mrs.
Rose Berblinger, in whose home he
roomed, and a doctor was called.

Drugs Dying Man.
The doctor, Mrs. Berblinger asserted,
seized the apparently dying man, and
after dragging him across the room,
probed the wound with his fingers and
asserted that the man was beyond re-
lief.

The physician departed and the police-
men returned to their station. Mrs. Ber-
blinger closed the door of the room, and
went about her work. She was terrified
nearly two hours later when she heard a
moan. Running to the door she threw it
open and saw Ulrich moving his hands
and calling for water.

Screaming with terror, Mrs. Berblinger
ran to the street and summoned physi-
cians. The police were notified, and Ulrich
was hurried to Mercy Hospital where an
operation was performed. Early to-day
Ulrich began to sink and shortly was
pronounced dead.

WARRANT FOR JOHN HISEY: MONEY SAID TO BE GONE

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., December 4.—
The filing of a \$22,000 trust mortgage by
the Muskegon Milling Company, running
to the Michigan Trust Company, of Grand
Rapids, simultaneously with the issuance
of a warrant for John L. Hisey, treasurer
and general manager of the company,
charging him with obtaining money un-
der false pretenses, caused a great stir
in Muskegon to-day. Hisey was reported
to have disappeared, but Secretary George
A. Hume, of the millage company, who
filed the mortgage, asserts that he is in
Battle Creek at a sanitarium. Experts
are examining the books of the company.
Secretary Hume says the trust mortgage
is to gain time in which to realize cash
from the company's ample assets to
cover the claims of creditors. The assets
aggregate \$25,000.

MESSAGE READ; HOUSE APPLAUDS

Expressions and Recom-
mendations Greeted
With Hand-Clapping

WOULD EXCLUDE NEGROES FROM ARMY

Representative Slayden, of Texas,
Offers Bill Providing for Dis-
charge of Negroes and to
Prohibit Their Enlist-
ment—Raynor's
Resolution.

WASHINGTON, December 4.—President
Roosevelt's annual message to Congress
occupied the attention of the Senate for
two and one-half hours to-day to the ex-
clusion of nearly all other business. The
exception to this was the introduction of
a resolution on the Japanese situation
by Senator Raynor, of Maryland, and the
adoption of appropriate resolutions re-
garding those members of the House of
Representatives who have died since the
last session. Mr. Raynor's resolution
reads as follows:

"Resolved, That in the opinion of
the Senate this government has no
right to enter into any controversy
with any foreign government relat-
ing to the public school system of
any of the States in the Union.

"Resolved further, That it is the
policy of the Senate that there is no pro-
vision in the treaty between the
United States and the government of
Japan that relates in any manner to
this subject, or in any way inter-
feres with the right of the State of
California to conduct and administer
its system of public schools in ac-
cordance with its own legislation; and

"Resolved further, That it is the
duty of the President of the United
States to notify the government of
Japan and to notify any foreign gov-
ernment with which the question may
arise that the public educational in-
stitutions of the State are not within
the jurisdiction of the United States,
and that the United States has no
power to regulate or supervise their
administration."

The resolution went over until to-
morrow. The same action was taken
with reference to the Furaker and Pen-
rose resolutions of yesterday, relating to
the discharged negro troops.

Senator Burrow, of Michigan, gave
notice that next Tuesday he would call
up for the consideration of the Senate
the question of the right of Senator
Reed Smoot to a seat in that body.

House Applauds.
The reading of the President's message
concluded two hours and twenty-five
minutes in the House to-day and was
followed closely by very large num-
bers of members, while the crowded
galleries gave close consideration.

Here and there the reading of the
document was punctuated with applause
and hearty handclapping from Demo-
crats, as well as Republicans, following
its conclusion.

The President's views on the inheri-
tance and income tax played the sena-
tor, Representative Champ Clark, of
Missouri, expressing the sentiment that
the "President had stolen the election
and converted to his own use, another
plank of the Democrats."

Speaker Cannon appointed Robert G.
Cousins, of Iowa, chairman of the Com-
mittee on Foreign Affairs, to succeed the
late Robert R. Hitt, of Illinois. He ap-
pointed Representative Frank G. Lowden
to a place on the same committee to
fill the vacancy caused by the death
of Mr. Hitt.

After the customary resolutions relat-
ing to the printing of the message, the
House adjourned.

WOULD DISMISS ALL THE NEGROES

WASHINGTON, December 4.—Repre-
sentative Slayden, of Texas, to-day intro-
duced a bill which provides that "on or
before the 31st day of June, 1907, all en-
listed men of the army who are negroes
or of negro descent, shall be discharged."

(Continued on Third Page.)

TIDEWATER MYSTERY IS AT LAST SOLVED

Son of Standard Oil Magnate
Virtually Confirms Ownership
of That Company.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
NORFOLK, VA., December 4.—H. H.
Rogers, Jr., son of the Standard Oil
magnate, arrived in Norfolk this morn-
ing and spent the day looking over the
Norfolk end of the Tidewater Railroad,
now in process of construction. His visit
clears up finally the mystery that has
always surrounded the ownership of the
Tidewater-Deepwater Road.

While he would not say that his father
owned the great railroad that is being
built and magnificently equipped with
the issuance of a bond or the bor-
rowing of a dollar, in discussing it
he spoke as one having authority,
and always used the possessive case,
when occasion would make a reference
to the ownership of the road necessary.

The visit of the young man is regarded
here as the showing of the hand of H.
H. Rogers, Sr., who has never hereto-
fore acknowledged the ownership of the
road for himself or the Standard Oil
company.

"I am much pleased with the progress
of the work here," said Mr. Rogers. "We
shall have the road in operation within
eighteen months at the outside."